

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

Daylight-saving
time ends Sunday.
Remember to turn
clocks back one
hour.



Vol. 40, No. 42

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Oct. 26, 2001



Charleston AFB's newest C-17 arrived Oct. 19. The aircraft was flown in by Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge Jr., vice commander of Air Force Materiel Command.

New C-17 arrives at CAFB

Story and photo by
Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

A brand-new C-17 was flown in to Charleston AFB Oct. 19 by Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge Jr., vice commander of Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The flight of the Block 12 version of the C-17 was the second of three new aircraft to be delivered to the base. Coolidge, who has more than 30 years of mobility experience, volunteered to fly the aircraft on its first flight into the base. His command is responsible for overseeing the C-17 procurement, future improvements or upgrades and long-term sustainment.

Charleston will receive the Block

12 versions of the C-17, which include extended-range fuel tanks, the Global Air Traffic Management system, and a host of other computer and avionics upgrades. Boeing, as part of the Global Reach Improvement Program, will eventually upgrade the base's older Block 9 and 10 versions of the aircraft.

The flight of aircraft number 0176, called P-76 by Boeing, to Charleston from the Boeing assembly plant in Long Beach, Calif., also marked the first opportunity for Coolidge to fly one. Coolidge has more than 4,000 flight hours, mostly in the KC-135.

"The C-17 is much more modern in its avionics than the KC-135s that

See P-76, page 3

Mission outweighs risks for C-17 crews: *Delivering aid at high altitudes over Afghanistan*

By Master Sgt.
Kenneth Fidler
USAFE News Service

Red lights dim even further in the cabin, marking the final countdown to drop time. "Jason," a loadmaster wearing an oxygen mask, helmet and a harness tethered to the floor, anxiously rocks from side to side.

The cargo doors yawn open, bringing bursts of freezing air into the depressurized cargo bay. The plane tilts up at about a 7-degree angle as the boxes, each weighing about 1,000 pounds, strain against their tie-down straps.

Jason and his partner, "Mike," see the orange ready light blink on. 10 ... 9 ... 8 ... 7 ...

"Jeff," the pilot, punches the button that releases the straps restraining the 42 boxes of humanitarian daily rations. Gravity takes over, and the boxes roll out like a freight train, breaking apart immediately and spilling the rations over a 1-by-3-mile area in northern Afghanistan.

One by one, three other C-17s safely drop their cargo, and all head home — the crews to rest for a couple of

days, the planes to gas up and load up for the next set of drops that could take place hours later.

The drop took 8 seconds, the rush of flying with the cargo doors open lasted only a few minutes, but the flight itself went on for hours.

This marked the 13th successful mission of the U.S. military's delivery of humanitarian daily rations to Afghanistan, part of President Bush's additional \$320 million aid package to the Afghan people. Since Oct. 9, about 783,000 meals have

been delivered by C-17 aircraft with the 437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB.

On his fourth flight since his unit deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany, Mike is visibly proud of his role in the operation.

"At first, I didn't know what

to expect," he said, pointing toward the refrigerator-sized cardboard boxes lined up in two long columns. "This is the first time I've flown high altitude, de-pressurized operational flights. But on my

See AIRDROP, page 3



Photo by Mannie Garcia

A Charleston AFB loadmaster checks his oxygen equipment as CAFB crews continue high-altitude drops of humanitarian daily rations from C-17s over northern Afghanistan. More than 780,000 HDRs have been dropped since the humanitarian-relief effort began.

IN THE NEWS

'Show me the money'

Travelers beware; Incomplete vouchers being returned

**By Senior Airman
Jason Smith**
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Comptroller Squadron Customer Service Office started returning incomplete travel vouchers to claimants for corrections Oct. 1.

In the past, correct portions of the voucher were paid, but return trips to customer service were required to complete the voucher. To eliminate three and four visits to finance, customer service is returning vouchers until they are correct in their entirety.

The Air Force has also been paying extra charges to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, according to 2nd Lt. Andy Grab, 437 CPTS Financial Services deputy commander. Grab said travelers make additional visits to the finance office to submit supplemental vouchers if they feel they did not get paid what they should have. DFAS charges a high price for

each voucher processed. Therefore, the mind set was changed to get vouchers correct the first time.

Master Sgt. Jeffery Seder, 437 CPTS Customer Support chief, said returning the vouchers is actually in the best interest of the customer.

"We want to pay travelers what they are entitled to, but at the same time, we need to be good stewards of public funds," Seder said. "It is expensive and time consuming to pay a traveler for a TDY piecemeal. We want to take care of a settlement voucher correctly the first time."

Seder said the biggest problem with travel vouchers is the claiming of expenses.

"Travelers try to claim reimbursable expenses that they are not authorized to receive a reimbursement for, or they don't claim items that they should," said Seder. "Also, receipts continue to be a major problem. Travelers continually forget the receipts

for lodging, rental cars and expenses over \$75."

To avoid problems, Seder recommends reading the front and back of orders before departing for a TDY. Information required to turn in at the end of a TDY is listed on orders. People should ask questions if they are unsure of something on their orders. Also, there are self-help books in the customer service area that can answer many questions before and after a TDY.

While on TDY, if lodging expenses are above the maximum lodging amount allowed, an Actual Expense Allowance Letter must be completed and signed by the member's group commander to receive full payment, according to Grab. Also, if government quarters are not available, personnel must provide a non-availability statement or a non-availability certificate number if a commercial hotel is not authorized on the travel order. If a non-availability certifi-

cate number is provided, the traveler must obtain the name and phone number of the billeting clerk who provided it.

Split disbursement is another option to make payments easier for travelers. Anyone who files a voucher can request this option to have finance pay the amount owed to the Government Travel Card directly. The leftover money would go to the member.

Split disbursement can also be used to pay airfare directly to a government card once a traveler gets to their TDY destination. Personnel wanting to use this option must fill out a worksheet at finance before departing.

For TDYs over 30 days, members can use split disbursement to pay on their card while they are away. At the 30-day point, a travel voucher can be filed from the TDY location to pay a member the amount they are due up

to that point on their TDY.

Once a member returns from a TDY, they have five duty days to turn in a completed voucher. Seder recommends using Form Flow to fill out a voucher.

"It is much easier for our technicians to read a typed voucher than a hand-written one," said Seder. "Also, members need to make sure they turn in four copies of the front and back of their orders and amendments."

To speed up the notification of travel voucher settlements, customer service recently began testing an e-mail system that sends statements to claimants. The system uses the global address list to send an information-protected travel voucher statement the same day it is paid. If a member's e-mail address is not on the global listing, it should be written on the voucher so finance can update their master travel record.

437 TCG visits area; Former group set legacy for wing to follow

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Almost 130 members of the 437th Troop Carrier Group were in town Oct. 17-Saturday as part of their 28th Annual Reunion, and they heard words of thanks for their legacy from Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander.

Many of them met for their reunion banquet at a local hotel and came together to share one another's company and reminisce. Most stated it was the sense of belonging that makes them come back to each reunion.

The reunion members also dedicated a plaque at the banquet, to be placed at the C-47 in front of Bldg. 1600, to honor 78 members of the 437 TCG who died in defense of the country.

"Those people on that plaque are the heroes, but don't doubt for a second that you aren't ones either. We honor your great legacy," said Young in his remarks to the group.

Frank Metzger, 437 AW Plans, brought a World War II CG4A "Waco" glider model to display at the banquet.

The 437 AW's namesake, the 437 TCG, was activated in May 1943 at Baer Field, Ind., and remained on active duty until November 1945. During the unit's two years of active service in World War II, 437 TCG crews participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy by towing GC4A and Horsa Gliders to landing zones in

France. Follow-up missions June 6-7, 1944, included carrying reinforcements, ammunition, rations and other supplies primarily for the 82nd Airborne Division. The 437 TCG was the first group of the 53rd Troop Carrier Wing to fly a resupply airdrop mission to the Bastogne garrison during the Battle of the Bulge.

The 437 TCG was composed of four squadrons. They flew the legendary Douglas C-47 Skytrain, affectionately called the "Gooney Bird."

Ted Pilgram, a crew chief assigned to the 437 TCG, came all the way from Chicago, Ill., to attend the reunion and remembers that the aircraft he had to care for from 1942 to 1945 was all worn out from previous campaigns in India and Africa.

"I had to rebuild it," Pilgram said. "One big thing in TCG was that we needed to go along with the aircraft wherever it went."

He described his greatest maintenance challenge as keeping enough oil in the aircraft. He added that not all C-47s were like that, but his seemed to leak lots of oil.

"I slept with that aircraft, ate in it, and did everything with it," Pilgram



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

Retired Col. William Clark Jr.'s C-47 still sits by the base flag pole. The plaque on the left was dedicated by the 437th Troop Carrier Group during the reunion.

added.

Retired Col. John Duffus claims he had the most flying time in C-47s when he retired in 1972. He entered the Army Air Corps in 1942 when he was 20 years old.

"My night over Normandy was at 1:04 a.m. (June 6, 1944), and we dropped 12 paratroopers and flew back to England," Duffus said. "I had a hole in the left wing of the airplane that a person could crawl through. The old man came out and looked at it and I climbed out and said 'well I guess I don't have to tow gliders at 10 a.m.,' but he said 'we'll have another airplane for you.' So, off I went."

His most moving experience in the 437 TCG was when he was the operations officer and received a call that

the parachute regiment was surrounded at Bastogne.

"I went out and got crew chiefs on all the airplanes and told them what was going on, and they worked all night loading airplanes and putting Para racks on them (six racks under the belly of the aircraft that opened up like bomb bay doors to deliver supplies when the pilot hit the Para packs salvo switch)," Duffus said. "The next day every single pilot volunteered to go and drop supplies. We went over Bastogne field right outside one of the roads and dropped the supplies at about 250 feet the day after Christmas. All these paratroopers came out and picked up the supplies."

Jim Lyons, also at the banquet, was a radio-radar man when his airplane crash-landed near Wesel, Germany, after crossing the Rhine River. They were towing two gliders, and the engines were knocked out before landing in a field of hedges. He spent six months in the hospital after being rescued by the British. He was on his 62nd mission when shot down.

"I was invited to speak with a Rotary club about D-Day, and after it was over the president said that I gave a really good speech, but added one suggestion, and asked me to tell them who we were fighting against," said Duffus. "Fortunately, there are some young folks who are trying to collect the details of World War II and keep them on the web."

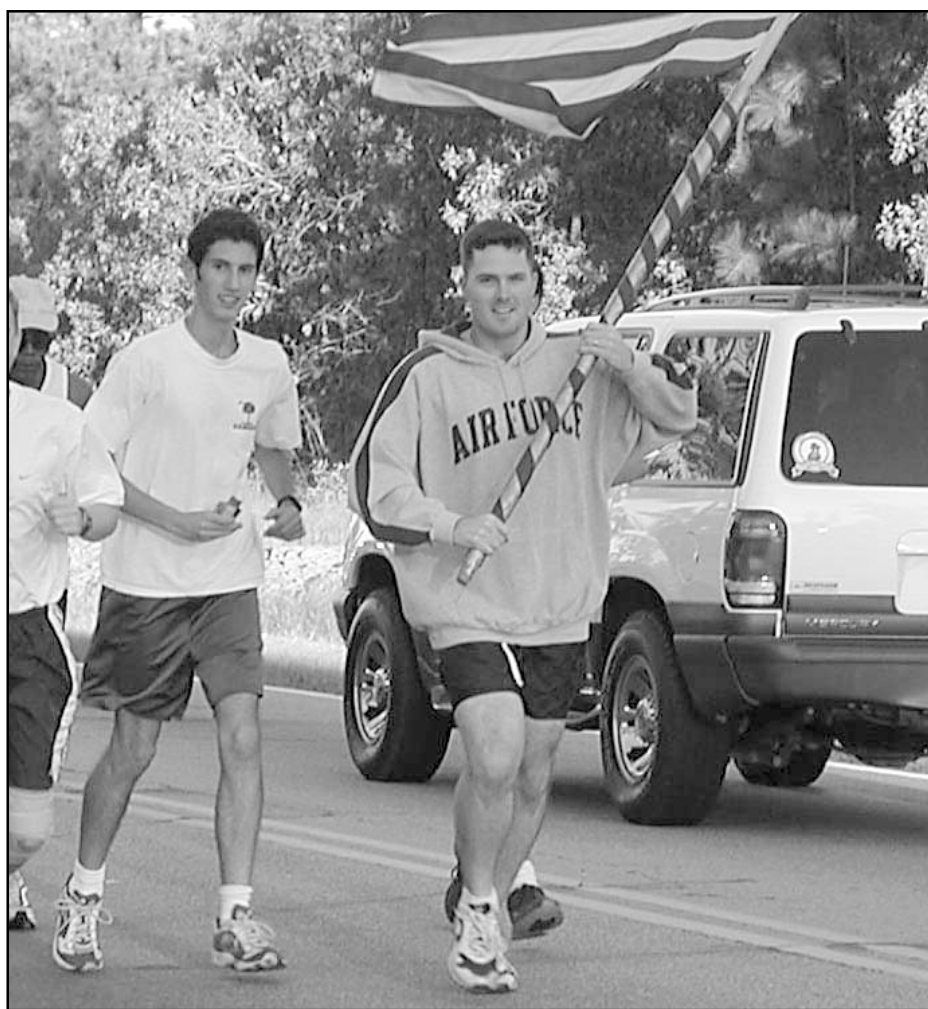


Photo by Adam Foster

Flag Across America

Capt. Jason Nulton, 437th Supply Squadron, carries a flag, flown over Iraq during Operation Southern Watch, through South Carolina as a runner in "Flag Across America," showing American resolve in light of recent events.

CFC: CAFB's gifts add up

By 2nd Lt. Robert Corley
437 SUPS

The Combined Federal Campaign is here, and many Team Charleston members have already given to some great charities. However, many others want to know why they should give.

A common question is, "What's in it for me?" Most campaign coordinators will say, "You'll get a warm, fuzzy feeling when you know you've helped someone." But, if a warm, fuzzy feeling doesn't sound so appealing, here are a few more reasons to give.

Many charities put money to use right here in the Charleston community. There are volunteer organizations dedicated to the rescue of lives and property of Charleston communities. Many foundations based in the Charleston area provide human services, academics, and job training for Charleston area students. There are several statewide conservation organizations advocating protection of habitats for wildlife

and people, and providing sportsman educational programs and other outdoor educational activities.

Many charitable organizations use money to directly support military members. The American Red Cross is just one of many organizations that provide services connecting military members to their families during emergencies. One CFC program keeps the money right here on base by providing base children with opportunities for social, scholastic and physical development, and assistance in becoming productive members of society.

Several organizations provide interest-free loans and grants to children of enlisted members and officers for college education.

By giving to the Combined Federal Campaign, Team Charleston members can help themselves and other members of the team. When the squadron POC asks for a donation, pick a charity near and dear to the heart and give. Remember, giving has its benefits.

■ \$1 per pay period can remove 60 pounds of trash from a beach, catalogue it and identify who put it there;

■ \$4 per pay period can protect three square meters of coral reef, home to hundreds of species of marine plants and animals;

■ \$5 per pay period can plant five trees in an urban area;

P-76

continued from page 1

I once flew," said Coolidge. "It's hard to compare the two aircraft.

"I was personally interested in flying the C-17 because I had run the contingency operations in which the C-17s were first employed when I was the director of Mobility Forces in Bosnia," Coolidge continued. "I actually employed the aircraft for the first time when they flew into Tuzla, (Bosnia,) and (Taszar,) Hungary. We had 12 C-17s operating from Ramstein AB, Germany. The C-17 was a workhorse and had about 98 percent reliability. Frankly, it saved our bacon many times."

Before flying out to Charleston in the C-17, Coolidge had an opportunity to tour the assembly plant.

"The plant was very well run, efficient and had a well-motivated workforce," said Coolidge. "We have a good government contractor-Air Force team."

The strategic partnership that was built with McDonnell Douglas and later Boeing on the aircraft and the unique contractor support arrangement employed is one of the successful lessons learned in the procurement of the C-17,

he added.

Coolidge also described AFMC's efforts to support the warfighting commanders in the war against terrorism.

"Our mission is to support the warfighter," Coolidge said. "We're obviously putting priority on the warfighter's needs; we also try to anticipate those requirements because those we've worked with them so long.

"There are certain areas that we are gearing up support even before the warfighter has asked us," continued Coolidge. "An example of that is our support with munitions. In certain other areas, we are actually pushing technology to the warfighter that might help them in particular applications. Some of that technology is in the reconnaissance business."

Coolidge, after stepping out of the aircraft for the first time, added that the C-17 amazes him every time.

"It's like flying a giant video game," he said. "There is really nothing it can't do. It was a real pleasure for me to fly this aircraft, especially with my association with the mobility business for 30 plus years. The airplane flies well and it was a real privilege and honor for me to bring it to Charleston. It's a beautiful airplane!"

AIRDROP

continued from page 1

first flight, it was a good feeling watching the boxes take off."

Mike said the Tri-Wall Delivery System "works like a charm. The boxes are holding up well and they roll out perfectly."

Essentially, the system is nothing more than heavy-duty cardboard boxes and straps designed specifically to handle the pressure of a high altitude drop.

On this plane — like all the others — the 42 boxes, each with 410 humanitarian daily rations, are tethered inside the cavernous cargo hold.

"I didn't know how big of a deal this really was until I saw all the news crews out there," he said, referring to the press conference held after the first mission Oct. 9. "I'm happy I was chosen to do this. I have a wife and daughter back home, and they see what we're doing on the news. My wife said she's proud of me."

Although the long flight to and from the drop zone may seem ordinary, for a short time, it's anything but.

Aircrew members agree that probably the most dangerous part of the mission is physiological. For more than

two hours during the mission, aircrew members work in a de-pressurized plane, breathing through oxygen masks.

About two hours before the drop, everyone on board dons an oxygen mask and starts taking in pure oxygen to decrease the amount of nitrogen in their bodies. Called "pre-breathing," this helps prevent decompression sickness later.

"These missions are physically challenging," said "Josh," a C-17 co-pilot. "The worst could be that you get (the oxygen supply) disconnected and don't know it. You could get decompression sickness and die from nitrogen bubbles in your blood. Plus it's just uncomfortable having the mask up to your face for two hours."

About an hour before the drop, the pilot de-pressurizes the aircraft. Two physiological technicians fly each mission to constantly check the crewmembers for signs of hypoxia, or lack of oxygen, which can occur within a minute at this high altitude.

"You could be so engrossed in doing your job that you would never know if you lost oxygen supply," said "Ismael," a physiological technician deployed from the United States.

Flying high over Afghanistan, cargo doors open, air below freezing whipping around inside and knowing the plane could be taking fire from the ground — it all can be a bit unsettling.

But that's not what Jason was thinking about. He was getting ready for the rush of cargo moving out. He was making sure his harness and oxygen lines didn't get sucked out over the open ramp and worrying about the tie-down straps catching. If they catch and the back-up release malfunctions, he has only seconds to grab the knife and cut it free.

The boxes roll out, breaking apart just as they drop off the cargo floor. Within seconds, it's over. The rations spill out into the cold air and fall to the earth. Mike closes the cargo doors, and the pilot pressurizes the aircraft.

"It was an excellent drop, as always. It was a rush to do that stuff," Jason said. "You know that somebody wants to shoot at you, but on the other hand you know you're doing something good for someone. So it's a rush on both ends."

Mike unstraps his mask and grins broadly; quite proud of the job he's just done. "That's something, ain't it? Can you believe I'm getting paid to do this?"

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight:

Town Hall meeting: The 437th Airlift Wing will hold a Town Hall meeting Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the base theater. Free childcare will be available for children ages 3 and older in the Base Honor Guard Office, located in the back of the theater.

Promotion: The 437th Airlift Wing hosts this month's promotion ceremony Wednesday, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club.

Native American heritage: The Native American Heritage Month celebration kicks off with a luncheon Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Representatives from several local tribes, dressed in full regalia, will be attending. A flutist from a regional Cherokee tribe is scheduled to perform. The fried chicken and baked ham lunch costs \$10 for club members and \$12 for non-members. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Jenonia Lisenbee at 963-4594, Master Sgt. David Craft at 963-4282, Master Sgt. Tim Lomas at 963-2137 or Staff Sgt. Frank Jones at 963-4236.

Order of the Sword: The NCOs of Air Mobility Command will honor Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, AMC and U.S. Transportation Command commander, Nov. 3, 6 p.m., at the Scott Club, Scott AFB, Ill. The dinner, London Broil with mushroom sauce, is \$30. To sign up for the event or for more information, contact Staff Sgt. Julie Buie at 963-5497.

Around the base

Fish fry: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group is holding its annual fish fry today, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Base Picnic Grounds. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance from any chief. Tickets will also be available at the picnic grounds.

WHCA Nomination Team: The White House Communications Agency Nomination Team is scheduled to visit the Community Education Center Monday, 8:30 a.m. The team will review records, identify, interview, select and nominate qualified airmen possessing specialties utilized in the Presidential support agency to provide optimum support to the President and other elements related to the President. Any interested personnel in the grade E-4 with 7 years or less time in service and E-5 or E-6 with 15 years or less time in service who have expertise in the AFSC of 1N3X3A, 2E1X1, 2E1X3, 2E1X4, 2E2X1, 2S0X1, 3C0X0, 3C0X1, 3C0X2, 3C2X1, 3E4X3, 3N0X2, 3V0X0, 3V0X1, 3V0X2, 3V0X3, 6C0X1 or 6F0X1 may attend the briefing. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Jason Baggett at 963-5071.

VEAP/MGIB conversion: Eligible Veterans Education Assistance Program participants interested in con-

verting to the Montgomery GI Bill must make their decision by Wednesday. Personnel converting must pay \$2,700 within 18 months of signing DD Form 2366. For more information, call the Community Education Center at 963-4575.

Dental Assisting: The 437th Dental Flight is accepting applications for the next Red Cross Dental Assisting class, which begins Nov. 13. The program includes an academic phase as well as hands-on dental assisting training, where the student will be taught how to assist in general dentistry procedures. Some duties include preparing a dental treatment room to treat patients; taking and recording vital signs; preparing dental materials for use; passing instruments and medications for restoring teeth; assisting in cleaning and sterilizing dental instruments; and some administrative tasks. The program lasts 6-7 months, with 40-hour class weeks. Applications are available at the Deily Dental Clinic, on the second floor of the Medical Group facility. The deadline for application is Thursday. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramirez at 963-6847.

BX gift wrapping: Any organizations interested in participating in the Base Exchange gift-wrapping booth should send a representative to a special meeting, scheduled for Nov. 8, 1 p.m., in the 437th Support Group conference room, Bldg. 1600. The first gift-wrapping day is Nov. 23, and the last day is Dec. 24. Organizations will be

allowed to work only one day until all organizations have had an opportunity to participate. Gift wrapping will be done for donations only. Operating hours will be the same as the BX unless otherwise noted. The organization's point of contact will be responsible for all booth operations on their day, to include opening, manning and closing. Supplies will be provided by the BX. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Allan Harris at 963-2202.

NCO retraining: Air Force officials have announced the start of the fiscal 2002 NCO Retraining Program. During fiscal 2002, staff, technical and master sergeants will have the opportunity to retrain from Air Force Specialty Codes with NCO overages to AFSCs with NCO shortages. A listing of retraining-out and retraining-in AFSCs is available at the 437th Military Personnel Flight, Personnel Employment, Room 207. For more information, call Senior Airman Leslie Melencion at 963-4567.

CCC: City Colleges of Chicago offers video courses for students waiting for Term III. The term begins Jan. 6. Schedules for Term III will be available by the middle of December. All students who have completed two or more classes with CCC can call 552-5959 to request a formal evaluation from the Chicago office.

Limestone College: Limestone College will have a representative on base every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-noon,

at the Community Education Center. Limestone offers a non-traditional approach to education. For more information, call 745-1100 or 963-7298.

Operation Eagle: Operation Eagle, a volunteer organization supporting the U.S. Armed Forces and their families, is launching a project effort to support U.S. and Allied troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The project, called Operation Homefront, is a 50-foot-long support poster. The project organizers are seeking names of patriotic citizens to add to the poster. The poster will be sent to the White House Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The organizers would like to have 1 million names to add to the poster. Those wishing to add their names can e-mail OpEagle@Bellsouth.net.

Enlisted Support Club: The Enlisted Support Club meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., usually at the Family Support Center. Anyone associated with enlisted personnel at Charleston are eligible to attend. For more information, call Marcia Lytton at 760-6892.

Family Support Center

Newcomer's Tour: Thursday, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

Pre-deployment Briefing: Thursday, Nov. 8, 15 and 29, 4-4:30 p.m. and Nov. 5, 19 and 26, 8-8:30 a.m.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

Charleston Profile

Staff Sgt. Chris Wagner 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Staff Sgt. Chris Wagner is a communication and navigations systems technician for the 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron.

Wagner, who works on the flightline, maintains aircraft avionics communication and navigation systems and support equipment. He repairs radios and radar equipment and emergency locations transmitters such as the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder.

Wagner maintained both the C-141 and the C-17, but he said the C-17 is more interesting because it is not as cut and dried as the C-141 was. He said having his engineering degree helps him with difficult problems on the C-17.

The Summerville native has been in the 315 AGS for seven years.

"I joined the Reserve because I didn't know what I wanted to do out of high school before going to college."

The highlight of Wagner's Reserve career came in 1998 when he went to Berlin, Germany, for ceremonies when the C-17 "Spirit of Berlin" was officially named. "I got to see President Bill Clinton speak and meet many generals," said Wagner.

Wagner graduated from Summerville High School and then earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Clemson University. As a civilian, he is an associate engineer with Santee Cooper in Moncks Corner.

In his free time, Wagner, 25, who is single, likes to hunt and fish.

Wagner said he would like to get his commission in the Air Force Reserve. As a civilian, he wants to get his professional engineer license and a master's degree in business administration.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to sales@islandpapers.com. Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander

Brig. Gen. Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor

Senior Airman Jason Smith

Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Photo Support

Base Visual Information Center

Mobility expert impressed by C-17

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

It was our honor to host Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge Jr., vice commander of Air Force Materiel Command, who flew our newest C-17 in from the Boeing plant. The flight was General Coolidge's first time piloting the C-17, and he was clearly impressed with its capabilities. He has more than 30 years of mobility experience and worked with C-17s when he was Air Mobility Command's director of mobility forces in Bosnia. He presented a ceremonial key to aircraft number 0176's crew chief, Senior Airman Jamin Norton, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. See the story on page 1 for more details.

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, visited with our people at a number of deployed locations to cheer them on. He reports that morale is very high and everyone is doing well accomplishing the mission.

I had a wonderful opportunity to meet with members of the 437th Troop Carrier Group Saturday evening during their 28th Annual Reunion in Charleston. The 437 TCG was the predecessor to the 437 AW and most members had seen combat action in World War II flying gliders and C-47s. See the story on page 2 for more details. What a great bunch of Americans!

What impressed me most about this group was that the members were enthusiastic, loyal about attending the reunions and kept their friendships alive. But even more surprising was that their families stayed involved even if their father and mother from that generation had since passed away. I spoke to one woman whose father passed away nine years ago. She had accompanied her mother and father, who were elderly, to the previous reunions to help them out. Her mother wanted to go to the reunions for the past eight years, and she escorted her mother to each reunion. Last year, her mother died, but the woman went to the reunion anyway because of the friendships that she had also developed over the years. She felt it was important to continue to meet. She was just one of the many children of these World War II veterans that attended the reunion because their parents could not travel without their assistance. That was pretty amazing!

I am still getting out in the community and letting the public know about our mission and assuring them of our role in national defense. Monday I spoke with the Kiwanis club in West Ashley about our mission. As I was walking into the restaurant wearing my service dress uniform, a stranger came up to me and told me how much he supported and appreciated us. It has been awhile since someone has done that to me, and it is good proof that the community supports us. I will continue to spread the word.

General Findley will also have the opportunity to speak at a banquet to honor Walterboro city council member and Tuskegee Airman Johnnie Thompson. Thompson has been a strong advocate of the base and is a well-known community leader in Walterboro. A number of famous Tuskegee aviators, to include retired Lt. Col. Hiram Mann whom the local chapter is named after, are also expected to attend the banquet.

We held our wing quarterly awards luncheon Tuesday in the Charleston Club. Congratulations to the nominees for your efforts. Everyone is a winner in my book, and we need to remember those members who are currently deployed. Keep up the good work.

Wing quarterly award recipients were Senior Company Grade Officer category, Capt. **Steven Rickenbacker**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; Junior CGO category, 2nd Lt. **Sara Fisher**, 437th Security Forces Squadron; Senior NCO category, Senior Master Sgt. **Arthur Sullivan**, 437th Logistics Support Squadron; NCO category, Master Sgt. **David Hayes**, 437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron; Airman category, Senior Airman **Matthew Harms**, 437th Opera-

tions Support Squadron; Honor Guard Member category, Senior Airman **Clayton Barker**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron; Civilian Category 1, **Michael Ruey**, 437 CES; and Civilian Category 2, **Charlie Jenkins**, 315th Maintenance Squadron.

I would like to thank the Chapel staff for arranging for country music star Charlie Daniels appeared at the base theater Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Daniels was in town to perform as the opening act for the Coastal Carolina Fair held at the Ladson fair grounds Thursday through Nov. 3. Daniels also took the time to sign autographs.

I look forward to meeting with members of the Air Force Basketball Training Camp tonight. The All-Air Force Basketball Training Camp will be here until Nov. 9. They are preparing for the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament slated to begin Nov. 10 in Germany. The team will play against local college teams as well as the recently formed North Charleston Lowgators, a National Basketball Developmental League Team. We wish them well in the competition.

General Findley is looking forward to the Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 7 p.m., in the base theater. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a number of presentations from the Family Support Center and other agencies. We will have a question and answer session after the presentations. Please come out and get the latest information.

We have reached a point where we can take a little breather to catch up on some maintenance on our aircraft. We must remain poised to respond at a moment's notice since the situation can rapidly change. If possible, use this opportunity to be with your family and friends, mission permitting. Thank you for all that you do for our Air Force ... your pride, professionalism and passion is evident for all to see!

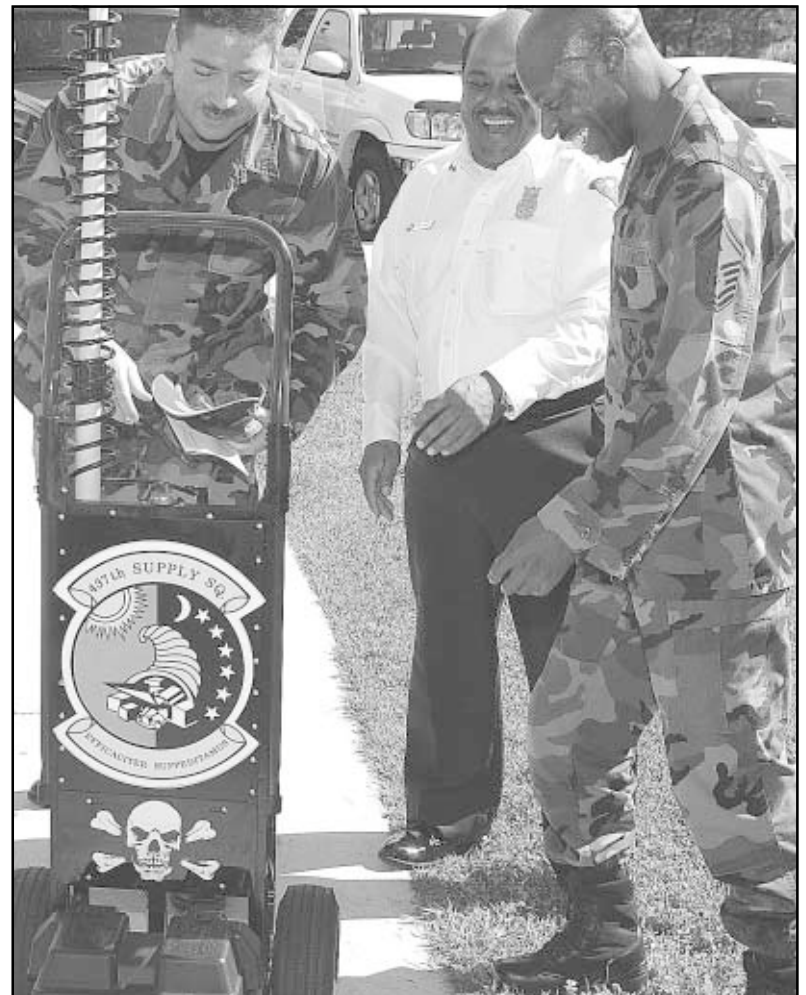


Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Senior Master Sgt. Vincent MacDonald (left), 437th Supply Squadron, Roger Schwartz (center), 437th Civil Engineer Squadron assistant fire chief, and Senior Master Sgt. Winston Moses, 437 SUPS first sergeant, pull the 437 SUPS air horn out of the Charleston Club after it started smoking during the wing quarterly awards luncheon. The smoke was caused by an electrical malfunction.



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: The next home games are tonight, 7:30 p.m., vs. Augusta, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Trenton and Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Pee Dee. For more information, go to www.stingrayshockey.com.

Summerville Speedway: The National Fall Classic 400 brings three days of racing Nov. 9, 10 and 11, featuring NASCAR Late Models, Grand Stocks, Pro 4 Modifieds, 4-Cylinder Stocks, Street Stocks/Chargers, Pure Stocks/Cruizers and Demolition Derby. Drivers from across the country will compete for the prestigious title of National Fall Classic 400 Champion in six divisions. For more information, call 873-3438.

Tickets for sports events, as well as many other attractions in the area, may be available at a discount price for active-duty military, reservists, military retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents from the Outdoor Recreation Center. For more information and for prices, call the Information, Tickets and Tours Program at 963-5271.

Entertainment:

Live music: Blue Dogs play tonight, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 722-8904.

Live music: Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion perform folk music Friday, 8 p.m., at Theatre 99. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 853-6687.

Bluegrass festival: A bluegrass festival is scheduled for Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., at Old Santee Canal Park, Moncks Corner. Tickets are \$12 for adults. Children under 12 get in free. For more information, call 899-5200.

Events:

Fair: The Coastal Carolina Fair runs now-Nov. 3 at Exchange Park, Ladson. Gate tickets are \$3 for children ages 6-12 and \$5 for adults. For

more information, go to www.coastalcarolinafair.org.

Swamp Halloween: Boat and hay rides, haunted trails, storytelling by bonfires, marshmallow roasts, a fun house and more are the highlights of Cypress Gardens' Halloween in the Swamp. The event takes place to-night and Saturday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Cypress Gardens, Moncks Corner. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. The event is not recommended for children under 6. For more information, call 553-0515.

Free admission: Magnolia Plantation and Its Gardens is inviting all South Carolina active service members, and their accompanied military dependents, to enjoy free admission to Magnolia on all days remaining this year. Proper military identification for the military member and dependents must be shown on arrival. The invitation includes all facilities with the exception of the house tour and nature trail tour. For more information, call 541-1266.

Free admission: Anheuser-Busch is offering free admission to seven of its theme parks for America's Heroes: law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical workers and members of the armed forces, including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members. Free admission is available every day through the end of the year to Sea World, Orlando, Fla., and San Diego, Calif., and Busch Gardens, Tampa, Fla. Free admission is available weekends through the end of their seasons to Sea World, San Antonio, Texas; Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va.; Sesame Place, Langhorne, Penn.; and Adventure Island, Tampa, Fla. To gain entrance, those eligible must show current identification and proof of employment or membership. On the first visit, each hero will receive a customized passport valid for free unlimited admission every day through December. Guests will receive complimentary admission on their first visit and a 25 percent discount for the rest of the year. For more information, call (800) 342-5283.

Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with all pertinent information and a call-back number to 963-5604.

FEATURE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rodney Umbaugh

Charleston AFB's junior enlisted members enjoy a sunny afternoon with their friends Oct. 19 during Oktoberfest. The event featured free food, beverages and a live band. Oktoberfest organizers said they felt the event was especially important this year, as operations tempo is high in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Oktoberfest:

Junior enlisted enjoy free food, beverages to music of live band

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

More than 600 Team Charleston members turned out Oct. 19 for Charleston AFB's 3rd Annual Junior Enlisted Block Party Oktoberfest.

"This number (of attendees) is down significantly from last year due to the current world climate," said Master Sgt. Matt Harless, 437th Airlift Wing career assistance advisor and Oktoberfest coordinator. "This year a lot of people came for an hour or two then left. In the past people have come and stayed until we started closing down."

Regardless of the number of people who showed up, the event was a success, according to Harless.

"The shirts (first sergeants) did a great job of taking care of all the food, the band was great, we gave away a lot of great prizes, and the Top 3 gave us a lot of support."

Harless said he felt it was important to hold Oktoberfest despite current operations in response to terrorist attacks.

"This year, a lot of people felt that we shouldn't have an event like this due to the war and our operations tempo," Harless said. "I felt that indeed this was exactly the reason why we should have this event. We've been asking more and more out of our people in the last eight weeks. More work hours, more stand-by hours, more deployments. They deserved the opportunity to get away for a few hours and get with their friends and hang out and have a good time."

Junior enlisted members enjoyed the event.

"Oktoberfest was great," said Airman 1st Class Celina Johnson, 437th Public Health. "I just wish all my friends who have been deployed could have experienced it with me."

Another Oktoberfest-goer noted that the event wasn't at all about alcohol.

"I didn't drink any beer, but the food was good," said Senior Airman Ashley Courtney, 437th Maintenance Squadron. "It was a good change from the day-to-day routine."

Harless said the Top 3 has every intention of continuing to host Oktoberfest.

"This is my third year having this event, and I think the Top 3 realizes that this is a good legacy to have, which shows our care and support for the junior enlisted folks here at Charleston," said Harless.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Master Sgt. John Melnick (left), 437th Security Forces Squadron, and Chris Sullivan, both of Big Black Building perform a mix of hits during Oktoberfest.

Right: Senior Master Sgt. Winston Moses, 437th Supply Squadron first sergeant, keeps busy at the grill. Charleston AFB's first sergeants cooked up a storm to feed hungry junior enlisted members at Oktoberfest.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Lois Idleman

437 MDG registered nurse

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is celebrating its 16th year of educating women about the importance of early detection for breast cancer.

Since the program began in 1985, mammography rates have more than doubled for women age 50 and older (from 25 percent in 1987 to 67 percent in 1997), and breast cancer deaths have declined by 1.8 percent each year since 1992, according to the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organization's Web site.

While progress has been made, there are still women who do not take advantage of early detection at all and others who do not get screening mammograms and clinical breast exams at regular intervals.

If all women 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods, breast cancer death rates could drop up to 30 percent, according to the NABCO. The key to mammography screening is that it be done routinely. Once is not enough.

American Cancer Society studies show

that breast cancer is often the chief health worry for American women. All women are vulnerable to the disease, especially as they grow older. It is the most common cancer in women and falls second to lung cancer as a leading cause of cancer death. The best protection against this disease is early detection and prompt treatment. The ACS recommends the following steps:

- Women should have annual screening mammograms beginning at 40

- Women under 40 with a family history of breast cancer, or other concerns, should consult a medical professional about when to begin mammography

- Clinical breast exams should be performed by a medical professional every three years beginning at 20 and annually after 40

- Women should practice monthly breast self-examinations beginning when they turn 20

During the month of October, the 437th Medical Group will be emphasizing breast cancer awareness. Information on breast health, mammograms and the proper way to do a breast self-exam can be obtained from any primary care manager.

Questions about breast cancer can be directed to Lois Idleman, 437th Medical Group Breast Health Nurse Educator, at 963-6738. Idleman recently became certified to assess a woman's history for risk of genetic breast cancer.

The Charleston Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is sponsoring the annual Race for The Cure Saturday. Anyone who would like to participate may contact the Race Hotline at 792-9186, or register online at www.charlestonrace4cure.org. The event raises money for breast cancer research.



'Mummy' knows best; Halloween safety tips for trick or treating

By Staff Sgt. Bart Craven
437 AW Safety

The creak of a door ... the rattling of chains ... the mournful wail of a lost soul ... children running and screaming. Is it the beginning of a low-budget horror film? Maybe, but these are some of the sights and sounds that may be encountered during the upcoming Halloween holiday.

While Halloween night is supposed to be a scary and fun night for Charleston AFB youth, it can quickly become a nightmare for parents if some safety precautions are not abided by.

Here are some tips for parents to protect their little ghouls and goblins:

- Always accompany children while they are trick or treating

- Never let children go into unfamiliar areas

- Allow children to only go to lighted residences

- Make sure children know

where they live in case they get lost

- Dress children in brightly colored costumes; if not, make sure they carry a glowstick or flashlight

- Ensure all costumes are flame retardant

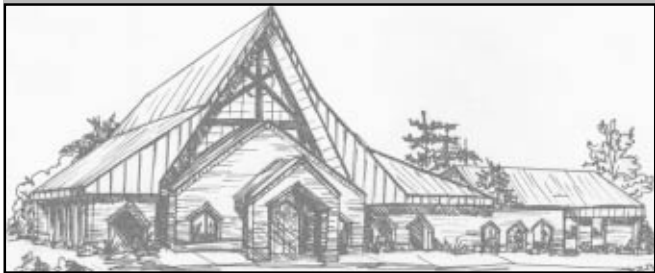
- Always inspect all treats before they are eaten; anything unwrapped should be discarded immediately

Members of the 437th Security Forces Squadron will be out during trick or treating. They will be wearing orange traffic vests and carrying flashlights. Any problems should be reported to one of them. If a security forces member can't be found immediately, call 963-3600.

Even though most of Halloween is make-believe fun, it is important to remember there are real life dangers children may be exposed to.

Trick or treating on Charleston AFB will be held Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

***"Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back"* – Kevin Smith**

When Jay and Silent Bob learn that a "Bluntman and Chronic" movie is being made featuring their comic book counter parts, they drool at the thought of fat movie checks rolling in. But when the pair finds there won't be any royalties coming their way, they set out to sabotage the flick at all costs. **(R) 104 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

***"Jeepers Creepers"* – Justin Long**

After making a horrific discovery in the basement of an old abandoned church, Trish and her brother, Darryl, watch their routine road trip home from college turn into a heart-stopping race for their lives. They find themselves the chosen prey of an indestructible force that relentlessly pursues them. **(R) 90 minutes**

Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

***"Two Can Play That Game"* – Vivica Fox**

When it comes to matters of the heart, keeping her man happy and committed is all in a day's work for Shante Smith. But when her boyfriend, Keith, is caught stepping out with her arch-rival, Shante institutes a plan to get her man in line. **(R) 90 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Bartley takes sloppy week six; Swami in the doghouse

By The Swami
Pigskin Prognosticator

Beth Bartley has posted the top picks for week six Swami action. In what was a miserable week for everyone, Bartley squeezed out a 9-5 record for the best guesser of the week. Finishing runner-up with an unimpressive record of 8-

6 was Doyle.

It was pretty ugly for the rest of the Swami wannabes also. However, the Swami does want to take this opportunity to mention who had the worst record. Finishing with only 3 wins and 11 losses (the worst of the year so far) was Bill "The Riddler" Ridler. The joke is on you now Riddler. This guy must be somewhere in Margaritaville

dreaming of Jimmy Buffett instead of thinking about football. Or is it Gotham City? He actually only picked two games correctly. The Swami gave him credit for the Dallas and Oakland game that was accidentally put on the pick sheet. That game was actually played two weeks ago, and of course, Dallas took a beating. Needless to say, there were two people who selected the Cowboys on their picks. Can you say idiots? You are not worthy of seeing your name in print, so the Swami will keep your identities hidden.

The Swami had his Halloween picture ready for this week, but the newspaper staff canned it. They felt the Swami's picks were too poor to give the Swami some real face time. Of course the Swami intentionally misses games all the time. Regardless, it looks like the Swami is in the doghouse.

Don't worry, you will see plenty more of the Swami. He is even contemplating some appearances at the Charleston Club.

If you noticed, an Indianapolis and Kansas City game was listed as a

The Airlift Dispatch regrets the tone of the comments by the Swami in the Oct. 19 edition. The remarks were not meant to be offensive, and we apologize to anyone who was offended. The Airlift Dispatch ensures these types of comments will not be published in the future.

Sunday game. The game was actually played Thursday night. The Swami is blaming Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones for that mistake. He is usually reliable about getting the correct games to the paper, but has goofed this week again. He is probably part of a conspiracy group to overthrow the Swami. Everyone will get credit for Jones' mistake. Consider it your Halloween treat from

Week Eight

Name/Phone #: _____

Comments: _____

Sunday, Nov. 4

Baltimore @ **Pittsburgh**

Carolina @ **Miami**

Cleveland @ **Chicago**

Dallas @ **New York Giants**

Jacksonville @ **Tennessee**

New England @ Atlanta

Tampa Bay @ **Green Bay**

Philadelphia @ Arizona

Detroit @ **San Francisco**

Indianapolis @ Buffalo

Kansas City @ **San Diego**

Seattle @ Washington

New York Jets @ New Orleans

Monday, Nov. 5

Denver @ **Oakland**

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: 60

Swami's picks are in bold and underlined.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks may be dropped at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1600, Room 224.

Picks must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m.



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Jason Smith

The Swami is in the doghouse for his horrible picks last week. Luckily, the *Airlift Dispatch* was still able to find him a Halloween costume.